

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

5 billion for British submarines

July 15 (R)—Britain today announced it will purchase a new submarine-based nuclear missile system from the United States at a cost of \$11.5 billion to replace its ageing Polaris deterrent. Defence Secretary Francis Pym, in a long-announced move, told Parliament Britain would build four new Trident missile-carrying submarines to come into service by 1996. Their Trident-1 intercontinental ballistic missiles would be purchased from the United States, Mr. Pym said. Britain would furnish the warheads. The government has also opened an option to build a fifth missile-launching submarine. At present the British strategic deterrent consists of four submarines carrying 64 nuclear-tipped Polaris missiles in a range of 2,500 nautical miles.

5, Number 1411

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY JULY 16, 1980 — RAMADAN 4, 1400

Inside the Jordan Times today

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- How do Jordan's energy policy planners intend to combat the country's increasingly expensive energy spiral? Page 3.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Iran seals its borders to trap coup plotters

AMMAN, July 15 (AP) — The government-run Tehran radio said all of Iran's borders — air, land — were being closed for a week to help capture members of an abortive anti-government conspiracy who have thus far eluded arrest.

Iran said the border was closed last week it had crushed a military plot to overthrow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolutionary regime. By Sunday, the official media said, some 500 people, many of them military men, had been arrested in the alleged conspiracy.

On Sunday, two Iranian air force lieutenants, possibly stragglers from the coup attempt, flew a helicopter to Turkey and asked for political asylum. Tuesday's Tehran radio report

said the "headquarters for neutralising the plot" — not further identified — had issued a statement saying:

"We have been informed that some mercenaries who were involved in the plot could cross the borders. Therefore, the head of the Islamic revolutionary courts decided to close all the Iranian sea, ground and air borders from the present moment for one week and no entry and exit will be allowed."

Israeli utility seizure case headed for the World Court

July 15 (JT) — Jordan and the other Arab states will bring the case of Israel's seizure of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company to the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The official source told the Jordan Times that the case would be filed with the ICJ in the near future. The source said that the case was currently being prepared by the Israeli government and that it was expected to be filed by the end of the year. The case would be a landmark one, as it would be the first time that a state has brought a case against another state to the ICJ.

Palestinians accused of plot to assassinate Ariel Sharon

July 15 (Agencies) — Security forces have arrested several Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, allegedly in connection with a plot to assassinate Israeli Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon. The arrests were made in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the suspects are being held in custody.

Arab-populated West Bank. The seven suspects, from the occupied Gaza Strip, were arrested several weeks ago, the communiqué said, but the arrests were kept secret.

But in Beirut, the Arab Liberation Front had a different account. While Israeli sources spoke only of a plot that was near completion, the ALF said in a statement today that its guerrillas had carried out an actual assassination attempt. The ALF statement quoted a Front spokesman as saying that the guerrillas attacked the Israeli minister while he was with his family at his private farm in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. The guerrillas clashed with Mr.

Sharon's guard and almost carried out their mission but for the arrival of Israeli reinforcements which sealed off the area and engaged the commandos in an unequal battle, he said.

The guerrillas were arrested when they ran out of ammunition, the spokesman added. "Zionist Minister Ariel Sharon is known for his strong hostility to the Palestinian people and their legal and inalienable rights to their land and homeland," he said.

When arrested, the suspects were working in a fruit-packing building on the Sharon farm. Since joining the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin three years ago, Mr. Sharon has been a strident exponent of hard-line policies towards the occupied lands.

Before taking up politics he was a general who was noted for leading a thrust across the Suez Canal in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and for crushing unrest in the Gaza Strip with armed force in the early 1970s.

Press reports said the suspects carefully collected detailed information on Mr. Sharon, including clippings from newspapers, and had stockpiled guns and explosives for the attack.

The suspects will face charges in a military court of attempted murder and planning other attacks in Israel, the military source said.

Security on Mr. Sharon was tightened after discovery of the purported plot the press reported.

Autonomy talks all in argument over Jerusalem

July 15 (R)—Egyptian and Israeli delegates today ended a round of almost fruitless talks about Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The talks, which began in Jerusalem on July 10, ended in a deadlock. The Egyptian delegation, led by Prime Minister Hosni Mubarak, and the Israeli delegation, led by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, were unable to reach an agreement on the issue of Jerusalem. The talks were characterized by a series of arguments and counter-arguments, with each side insisting on its own position.

viewing more than 20 possible agenda items, Egyptian and Israeli delegates were only able to agree on three subjects for the officials said. The three subjects were: the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the issue of Palestinian autonomy.

side by side at a joint press briefing, Israeli Justice Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Egyptian Prime Minister Hosni Mubarak, said that the talks had been "a failure". They said that the talks had not produced any results and that the two sides were still far apart on the key issues.

ally disagree on this subject," declared Dr. Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs. "We are definitely nothing to do with (Palestinian) autonomy," he said. The Egyptian delegate then said he did not want to continue the talks.

delegate Herbert Hansell, a State Department legal adviser, through the exchange. The Camp David agreement, negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be completed by May 26. The talks broke off on May 14 in protest of Israeli moves to make Jerusalem its undivided capital and only agreed to the intervention of President Carter.

the talks issued after the next round in the talks would be a meeting of legal experts in Alexandria followed by ministerial-level committee discussions in Israel. A second session of the negotiations is planned for Alexandria. The talks were put on the agendas for July 27 and 30 cover the issue of who will have authority in the West Bank and Gaza. A five-year transitional period after a Palestinian council is set up.



Former Palestinian commando Layla Khaled at the Copenhagen U.N. conference, where she may face attempted extradition by Israel. (AP wirephoto)

PLO leads walkout at U.N. conference as Mrs. Sadat talks

COPENHAGEN, July 15 (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation led a walk-out by 25 delegates today from a plenary session of the U.N. Women's Conference when Mrs. Jehan Sadat, wife of the Egyptian president, went to the rostrum to speak on the first day of general debate.

The PLO delegation was joined by other Arab representatives and delegates from East Europe, Iran, Turkey, Uganda and Albania, in protest against Egypt's signing of a peace treaty with Israel.

Clapping their hands in unison, the delegations rose from their seats and walked to the exit where they halted momentarily, chanting "Palestine, Palestine, Palestine..."

Jordan's chief delegate to the conference was elected yesterday vice chairman of the conference, the Jordan News Agency said. Mrs. Umayyah Tounan will be assuming the vice chairmanship at the conference which was opened formally yesterday by U.N. Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim.

The walk-out was led by the PLO observers including Miss Layla Khaled, the former Palestinian commando who was involved in two skyjackings ten years ago and whom Israel may try to have extradited, according to unofficial reports here.

Jehan Hilou, another PLO observer, told the Associated Press that the walk-out had been pre-arranged in the sense that it was decided upon when Egypt's President Anwar Sadat first went to Jerusalem to make peace with Israel.

Calling Egypt "the dog of the United States," the PLO observer said that Palestinian and South African women are the world's worst victims of discrimination against women. She said she did not care to know what Mrs. Sadat had to say because the important thing would be to match words with action.

Mrs. Sadat told the 1,500 delegates from about 120 countries that the Israeli occupation of Arab land and the ensuing violence "caused the utmost distress to Palestinian women both individually and within their family circles."

"Their dignity and future have been deeply affected," Mrs. Sadat said and went on to propose that the conference issue a resolution demanding Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1967.

"Moreover, this conference should also make recommendations that specific measures be taken to assist and support Palestinian women," the Egyptian First Lady said. She received a standing ovation at the end of her remarks.

Meanwhile, the Israeli embassy here would neither confirm nor deny a newspaper report today that Israel may seek the extradition of Miss Khaled. The second of Miss Khaled's skyjackings involved an Israeli El Al airliner at London Airport. She was arrested by the British, but released without being tried.

Quoting unnamed high Israeli diplomatic sources, Copenhagen's *Bertinske Tidende* claimed Israel is studying the possibility of having Miss Khaled extradited for the action against the Israeli plane.

Mr. Eliahu Tabori, an official at the Israeli embassy here, told the Associated Press that he is in no position to deny or confirm the report.

"We are checking with Jerusalem on the basis of the newspaper report," he said.

Danish authorities said they knew nothing of any Israeli extradition move, and Justice Ministry officials pointed out that Denmark has no warrant for the arrest of Miss Khaled. They also said an extradition procedure could be so slow that the U.N. conference would be over and Miss Khaled back in Lebanon, where she is a teacher, long before any decision could be made.

U.N. conference sources said a demand for her extradition would be bound to increase the looming danger of a political showdown over the Palestinian issue.

Discussions on the subject of Palestinian women will be based on a controversial paper referring to Israel as Palestinian territory occupied since 1948. Confrontation or further walkouts are feared.

Nov. 15 deadline sought for full Israeli withdrawal

UNITED NATIONS, July 15 (AP) — Key Arab countries here are pushing a proposal which would have an upcoming General Assembly

emergency session on Palestine call on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories no later than next Nov. 15.

The proposal, as reported yesterday in the Jordan Times, would also have the Assembly ask Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to establish a U.N. force to "supervise and confirm" the withdrawal.

It would authorize him to take over the evacuated territories and then, with Arab League cooperation, hand over the "Palestinian areas" to the Palestine Liberation Organisation to satisfy the Palestinians' "right to national independence and sovereignty." "Palestinian areas" was understood to mean the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The proposal would also have

Mr. Waldheim work with the PLO and others in returning refugees of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war to their homes and in enabling refugees of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war to reclaim their homes or accept compensation for them.

"An Arab committee on Palestine drafted the proposal late last week. The whole U.N. Arab group planned to consider it at a meeting today."

The emergency session is expected to begin July 22 and run through the following Saturday at the earliest.

Mr. Falilou Kane of Senegal, chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee, asked on July 1 for the emergency session to enable the assembly to consider Palestinian statehood. In calling for the emergency session, cited unhappiness with the U.S. veto on April 30 of a Security Council resolution on the Palestinians.

Mr. Waldheim is waiting for the approval of a majority of the 152 U.N. members, the prerequisite for calling an emergency session. Approval of the session is thought to be certain.

Israelis seize big arms cargo

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 15 (AP) — Israeli warships confiscated a boatload of armoured personnel carriers bound for Palestinian guerrillas, deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zippori said today.

Mr. Zippori told the Knesset that the 26 armoured vehicles had been taken from the *Nexus*, a freighter bound for Lebanon, about two months ago. No further details on the confiscation were available.

Mr. Zippori said Israel carefully monitors the arms traffic to the Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon, and said a shipment of Soviet T-34 tanks had recently arrived from Hungary. The Israeli navy intercepts shipments whenever it can, he said.

The capture of the armoured personnel carriers was the biggest seizure of guerrilla arms ever reported. Israel routinely checks suspicious ship traffic passing near Israeli shores, and has in the past reported confiscating ammunition, explosives and light weapons headed for Lebanese ports.

Cypriot sides to start talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus, July 15 (AP) — Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Tureiki, acting as a mediator, announced today he had persuaded the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to meet in Tripoli in an effort to resolve their protracted differences.

The meeting between President Spyros Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Mr. Raouf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, would be under the auspices of United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. Mr. Tureiki told the press conference after separate meetings with the two Cypriot leaders. He was vague about the timing of the meeting, saying only he hoped it would take place before the end of the year.

Fahd: Syria stands on first defence line

DAMASCUS, July 15 (Agencies)—Saudi Arabia has stated that all loyal Arabs should strengthen Syria as the first defence line against Israel, a press statement said here today.

The statement followed the return of the commander of the Syrian National Defence Regiment, Col. Rifaa Al Assad, from a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he met King Khaled and had talks with Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and other senior officials.

The statement, quoted by the official Syrian News Agency SANA, said that the need for strengthening bilateral relations in the interest of the Arab Nation was discussed.

"Prince Fahd asserted that Syria constituted the first defence line of the Arab Nation in face of the Zionist enemy, and that its consolidation and strengthening are the duty of all the loyal Arabs," it said.

The statement said Prince Fahd also reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's rejection of the Camp David Middle East accords and insistence on regaining Israeli-occupied Arab territory, including occupied Jerusalem, and Palestinian rights.

"Col. Assad told Prince Fahd of the pressures Syria was facing as a result of its firm national attitudes and huge sacrifices on all levels and in all fields in defence of the Arab Nation's dignity and common destiny," it added.

Col. Assad brother of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, said that wrecking the Camp David accords was a collective Arab responsibility. Syria was determined to achieve a strategic balance with Israel with the help of its Arab brothers and other friends, he said.

Syrian officials say strategic balance means their country should be able to get the most advanced weapons in the Soviet arsenal to match the U.S. arms supplies to Israel and establish Syrian-Israeli military parity.

This has been the growing trend in Syria since Egypt bolted from Arab ranks to sign a bilateral peace with Israel last year. There have been an increasing number of statements in Syria about a "qualitative upgrading of relations with the Soviet Union."

Saudi price judges Camp David a failure

BEIRUT, July 15 (AP)—Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia said in a newspaper interview published today the U.S.-sponsored Camp David formula for a Middle East has proved a failure.

Prince Fahd also disclosed he intends to visit Syria and Iraq in an attempt to close Arab ranks before an Arab summit conference is held in Amman in November.

"I also will renew contacts with President Chadli Ben Jedd (of Algeria) and Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi for the same rank-closing purpose," Prince Fahd told the independent Beirut newspaper *An Nahar*.

Prince Fahd did not set a date for the trip to Syria and Iraq, governed by rival wings of the Arab

Socialist Baath Party.

"Camp David has failed," Prince Fahd said. He also warned that an Israeli Labour government headed by Mr. Shimon Peres would be "even worse than the present government" of Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

As guardians of Islam's holiest Shrines of Mecca and Medina, the Saudis are especially insistent that Arab East Jerusalem should be evacuated by Israel.

Prince Fahd said the Arab World must unite to make the superpowers feel its weight.

"The United States, thinks only of Russia and Israel," he said "while the Soviet Union thinks only of the United States and China. There should be a third side in the considerations of the superpowers: the Arabs."

Regional Briefs

UPPSALA, Sweden, July 15 (R)—Police said today they were investigating whether three Swedish citizens, arrested for trying to smuggle a submachine-gun and two hand-grenades into Sweden, had planned to assassinate King Khaled of Saudi Arabia during his visit to West Germany last month. "The investigation has pointed to plans to assassinate King Khaled," chief prosecutor Axel Morath said. Mr. Sadi Alwan, 36, and born in Palestine, was detained on June 20 when he tried with Miss Ingela Mansson, 20, to enter Sweden from West Germany. Mr. Alwan's brother Hamid, 33, was arrested later in connection with the smuggling attempt, officials said. "We know they were in West Germany at the time of King Khaled's visit there," Mr. Morath said, adding that they were being helped by West German police in their investigations. The smuggling charges will be raised in court this week, the prosecutor said.

DAMASCUS, July 15 (R)—United Nations General Assembly President Salim Ahmad Salim today discussed the situation in the Middle East with Syria's deputy premier and foreign minister Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, officials said. Mr. Salim arrived here from Amman yesterday after talks there with senior Jordanian officials.

DAMASCUS, July 15 (AP)—Palestinian sources here said today that Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat plans to go to Moscow this week at the invitation of the Kremlin. The invitation was delivered to the Palestinian leader in Beirut last week. The sources said Mr. Arafat will take a high-powered delegation from the PLO. He was last in Moscow in December 1979.

DAMASCUS, July 15 (R)—Syria's minister of defence, Major-General Mustafa Tlas, left here today for Warsaw on an official visit at the invitation of his Polish counterpart, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, it was announced today.

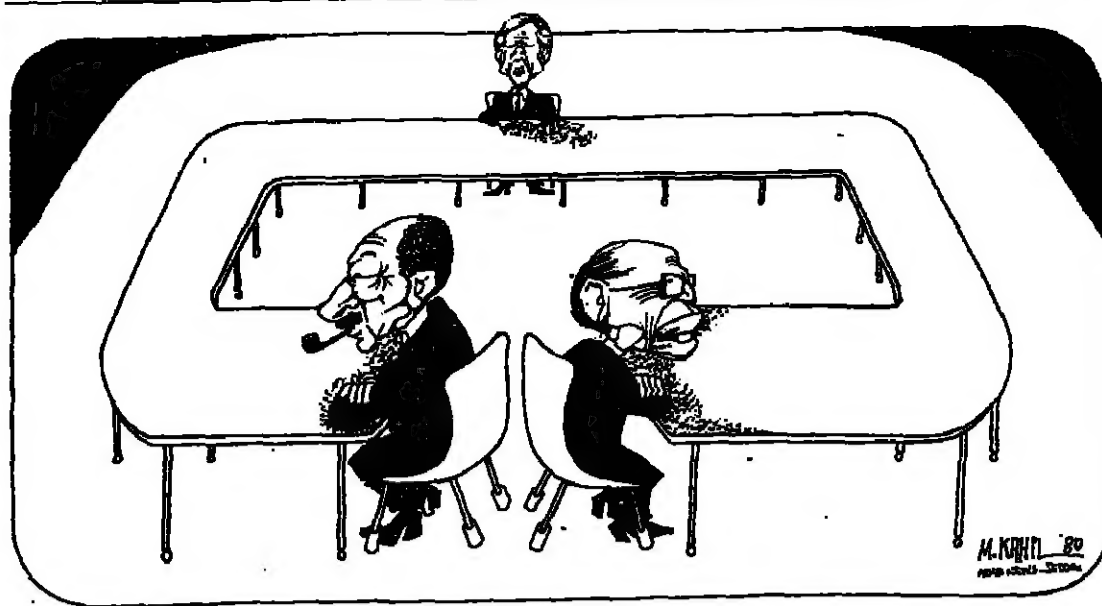
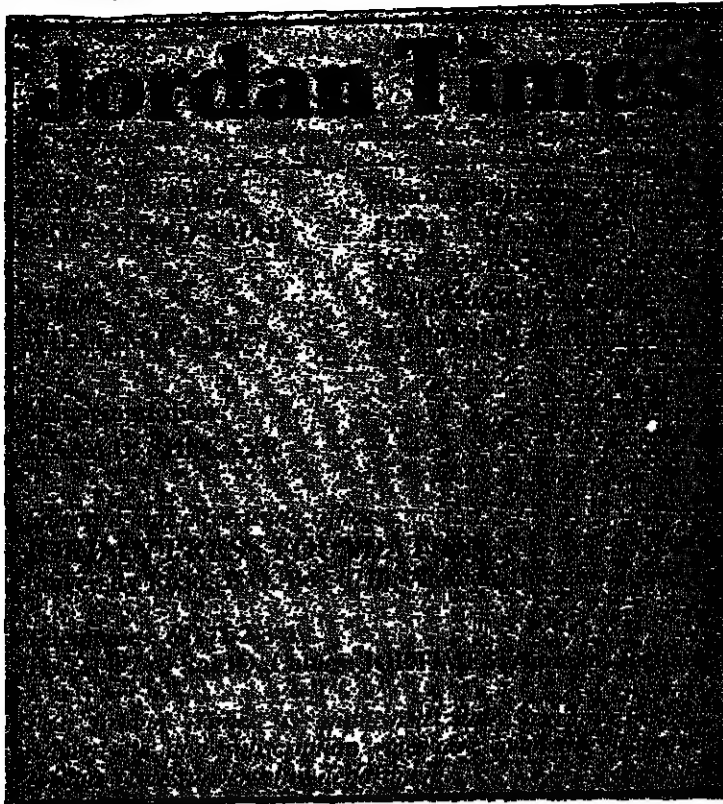
TEHRAN, July 15 (R)—The religious broadcaster who used to recite verses of the Koran on state radio and TV during the reign of the Shah has been found murdered, Tehran newspapers reported today. A group which said the courts had been too lenient with him claimed responsibility, they said. Mr. Javad Zabih had been given a five-year jail term by an Islamic revolutionary court for his association with the former regime, but he was freed under a general amnesty proclaimed by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. According to press reports, he was abducted by car from his home on Sunday and his body was found later with bullet wounds in the head and stomach.

ROME, July 15 (R)—Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo today discussed the crises in Afghanistan, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa with Somali Foreign Minister Abdurrahman Jama Barre, foreign ministry officials said. The officials said they also talked about the plight of the tens of thousands of refugees who have fled into Somalia and international efforts to help them. Italy has pledged \$600,000 to U.N. refugee funds and food aid worth \$20 million, including 20,000 tons of rice, to Somalia, the officials

said.

TOKYO, July 15 (R)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has called off a plan to send a private four-member delegation to Japan, a representative of the Japanese group which invited it said today. Mr. Toshio Tanaka, a former parliament member of the Japan Socialist Party, said the scheduled two-week visit from next Sunday would not take place because of "a lack of cooperative attitudes by Japanese authorities." Last year, a group of Japanese parliamentarians invited PLO leader Yasser Arafat to Japan but the invitation was declined because it did not come from the Japanese government, which does not recognise the PLO.

LONDON, July 15 (R)—British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hurd will fly to Baghdad tomorrow to attend Iraq's National Day celebrations, the Foreign Office announced today. Mr. Hurd, a minister of state specialising in Middle East affairs, is going at the invitation of the Iraqi government and will spend three days in Baghdad. British officials said his visit was part of Britain's effort to improve the recently chequered Anglo-Iraqi relations. Mr. Hurd's talks with Iraqi ministers are expected to cover the Arab-Israeli dispute and other major Middle East developments and world problems. Mr. Hurd is also expected to discuss the cases of two British businessmen, Mr. Christopher Sparkes and Mr. John Smith, imprisoned in Iraq for alleged economic offences. The Foreign Office today also announced that Mr. Stephen Egerton, a senior career diplomat, will become Britain's new ambassador in Baghdad in September.



On land expropriation

Israel's high court rejects appeal by Arab landowners

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, July 15 — Israel's supreme court today rejected an appeal by 26

Arab landowners from Tulkarm against the expropriation of 100 hectares of their land four years ago.

The court also postponed a decision on the future of Abu Dis College near Jerusalem, and gave government authorities another 30 days to show cause why the school should not be opened.

In a third anti-Arab act, Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied West Bank began confiscating 1,600 hectares of Arab land south of Nablus to build a road linking two Jewish settlements.

Israel seized the Tulkarm land in 1976, saying it needed the site for security reasons. Two years later an Israeli settlement, Migdal Oz, was established on the land. The 26 Tulkarm residents argued that the land was cultivated and privately owned.

Court Justice Haim Cohen gave no reason for his decision. He said the detailed judgment would be entered in the court records.

In 1976, Israel said it needed to build a road on the land near Tulkarm, to link two Jewish settlements in the area. That is the same reason the Israeli government has given for seizing the 1,600 hectares of Arab land south of Nablus, beginning today. Occupation authorities sealed off the area from its owners and local residents.

Arab sources told Reuters the land is privately owned, and its seizure would cause great economic hardship to its owners. They have protested to the Israeli military governor in Nablus.

Israel military sources claimed the area fenced off was only 400 hectares, none of it cultivated. They said it was all registered as Jordanian state land, and was expropriated so that a road could be built between the Jewish settlements of Ariel and Karnei Shomron.

The road would also provide better access to the controversial Jewish settlement of Elon Moreh outside Nablus. According to Israel's original ruling on Elon Moreh, the military occupation authorities can expropriate privately owned Arab land "for clearly security purposes only."

Last week Israel's ministerial

defence committee authorised construction of the road and expropriation of the land, despite a legal opinion to the contrary from Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir. Work on the road has not yet begun.

Earlier today the Israeli supreme court extended by 30 days the deadline for military authorities to show cause why Abu Dis College should not be opened. The school's first year of higher education was closed March 15 because military authorities feared it would become the nucleus of a Palestinian university in Jerusalem. Military authorities at the time also said the school would become a "hotbed of anti-Israeli unrest" and a "breeding ground for Palestinian nationalism."

The official reason offered was that the school had not received the required permission from Israeli military occupation authorities. The authorities also said there was no need for the school because there are 13 other Arab institutes of higher education in the West Bank.

When the case first came to court the Israeli military authorities were given 45 days to explain why the school was closed. That deadline expired today, but the military was given a reprieve. The school was closed just as the class of 36 students were nearing the end of their first semester.

The school's dean, Dr. Ahmad Saidan, fears that if the college's case is lost the next step by the Israeli military authorities may be to close the elementary and preparatory levels of the school, which would force 450 orphaned and poor students to find education elsewhere. Dr. Saidan believes the military authorities want to close the school so they can confiscate the land, some 193 dunums situated in a strategic position on the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

Dr. Saidan rejects Israel's reasoning that the school is not needed because there are other institutes of higher education in

the West Bank. Abu Dis is intended to become a science-oriented university that would eventually add a school of medicine. For now the college has only the faculty of science, with 36 students enrolled. Dr. Saidan argues that there is a great demand in the West Bank for science courses and facilities.

In the 1979-80 school year, the three Arab universities in the West Bank — Birzeit, Bethlehem and Najah (at Nablus) — enrolled only 441 students in their faculties of science because they did not have the facilities to handle more. That figure is only 13 per cent of the total number of science students who passed rawjidi in the West Bank. Because of limited science facilities, the three Arab universities turn away hundreds of applicants each year.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Out campaigning in Israel

YOU REMEMBER John Anderson, the presidential candidate who has promised to be brave and bold, to break free of the political constraints and routines that bind lesser candidates, to be (as he has put it) different?

Well, Rep. Anderson has been in the Middle East, and he does turn out to be different from the other American politicians who have made Israel a standard stop on the American campaign trail. But what has been different about him is that he has been unusually shameless about ethnic politicking.

No other presidential candidate has ever visited Israel during a campaign—when there is an obvious danger that his observations will play unfortunately into current diplomacy. And surely no other candidate has convinced so many different parties that his first reason for going to Israel was to make it to the White House.

Local Palestinians were so upset by Mr. Anderson's performance in Jerusalem, where he was wholly insensitive to Arab feelings about the eastern half of the city, that even the most moderate among them refused to meet him, and the candidate had to leave a place where the Palestinian

problem is central without having spoken a single Palestinian word. His plans to visit for cut off at the Jordanian end. Putting down remarks in Israel, Egypt's claim to be a strategic partner of the United States, in Cairo to loud local complaints that he has been fishing for the American Jew.

In Israel, some Israelis took satisfaction extracting statements from Mr. Anderson, might be held over him, later. But others either shook their heads over the candid use of their country as a campaign stage, or rations made under political duress.

Mr. Anderson could have visited the spoken with many different people closely, nodded attentively and gone home with his options intact. That would be the responsible and presidential thing.

Instead, he has acted in a way that raises about his capacity to deal effectively with the most important issues in American policy.

The Washington

Uniting for peace

INTERNATIONAL action of the type which is sought as a way out of the Middle East impasse is beginning to take shape at the United Nations. The procedure being used by the Arab states and their supporters in raising the Palestine question in the General Assembly next week is known in U.N. jargon as "uniting for peace," and that seems an appropriate appellation.

The proposals emerging at this stage may not be perfect, but they are a start. It is also a worthwhile exercise to line up support from the international community for a new Palestine initiative.

Even if, at the end of the day, whatever mandate emerges from the General Assembly is sunk by a veto in the Security Council, all will not have been for naught. The General Assembly debate will provide an opportunity for enumerating and documenting the mounting crimes of the Israeli military occupation. The debate will also serve as a welcome chance to demonstrate our mounting impatience with sterile "peace" processes that do more harm than good.

As specific as the proposals for the disposition of the Palestine problem which emerge from this session might be, no-one is naive enough to believe that Israel is going to withdraw from the occupied territories on instructions from the General Assembly.

But there is such a thing as international law. There is a U.N. Charter, to which Israel as much as any other United Nations member is bound. There is a Geneva Convention governing the disposal of territories occupied by force. There is a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And, ultimately, there is the Security Council, where Israel's immunity from prosecution cannot last forever, even if it cannot be ended before Nov. 4, the U.S. election day.

All these mechanisms—some of them a bit rusty—must be oiled up and put into working order by the end of the year. It may be too much to expect universal unanimity from the start. But the important thing is that a start should be made.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: Prime Minister Menachem Begin yesterday outdid himself in his defiance of Arab and Muslim rights and feelings when he announced that the flags of Arab and Muslim states will not be raised in the city of Jerusalem unless full recognition is accorded the Zionist entity—and that then, these flags would be raised over the embassies of the countries which granted this recognition.

We want to understand Mr. Begin's statements with the minimum of emotionalism. But it is incomprehensible to us that such statements are made at a time when the Egyptian regime is continually saying that President Sadat alone is working for the retrieval of Jerusalem.

Not is it understandable that such statements are being made while there is still an Egyptian negotiator sitting with the Zionist negotiator to discuss the issue of "peace" and that of autonomy.

We can, however, understand why such statements were made immediately after the conclusion of the extraordinary conference of Islamic foreign ministers and less than one week from the conclusion of the Arab Foreign and Economy Ministers' conference, which tried to draw up an Arab economic strategy to confront the enemy.

Briefly speaking, it is a declaration of a boycott not only of the Arabs and Muslims but of peace. It also closes all the paths leading to peace.

It is not a new language which Mr. Begin is using. The man is not short on such words. He has been making the same statements as long as we have known him—as a terrorist before the occupation of Palestine and a prime minister of the enemy government after it.

But as for us Arabs and Muslims, we still do not understand it. We do not want to say that we are not willing to understand, or that we do but will not act according to that understanding, but we simply do not.

AL DUSTOUR: One of the most prominent characteristics of our national march forward is clear government policy and the continuity of work to consolidate the national structure and to achieve the cultural leap forward as a new society, economically and socially.

The prime minister has emphasised before the National Consultative Council that the government will continue to do its duty and shoulder its responsibilities in the light of the instructions of His Majesty King Hussein, our leader, of the principles he has laid down for the government—principles which the last cabinet applied in loyal enthusiasm for the mission and the homeland.

While it has been the fate of this country to lose one of its loyal sons—the late Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, whom God chose to take to him while we were still in dire need of his help—faith in divine destiny and the homeland and loyalty to the mission come always before all obstacles predicaments.

We are today facing a new phase of the confrontation with the enemy, who is lying in wait for us and is trying to create a new fair accomplice in our occupied lands. He is also planning further aggression and expansion. To cope with the challenges of development and take advantage of the technology of the modern age we must, more than ever before, rally the ranks and pool the resources of the sons of the one homeland behind their inspired leadership and wise government.

Jordan, which has always been faced with great challenges, which devotes itself to defending the Arab World and gives for the Arab Nation generously, is always ready to act as the shield of that nation and its front line. The courageous leadership of King Hussein gives us hope and provides us with determination to continue the march to build an equitable and dignified society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Painting exhibition

The Department of Culture and Arts, under the patronage of the minister of culture and youth presents an exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan. The exhibition is open during office hours and from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Art Gallery of the Ministry of Culture and Youth and will run through July 17.

Every Sunday

At 3:15 P.M.

ARAB HORSE RACING

At The Royal Racing Club in Marka

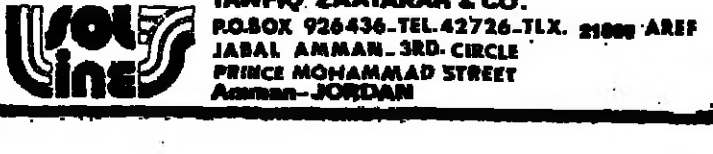
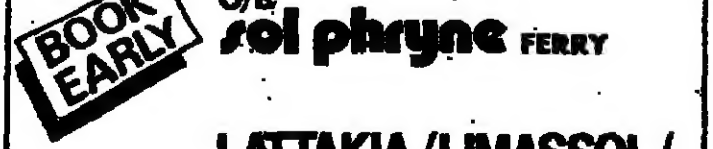
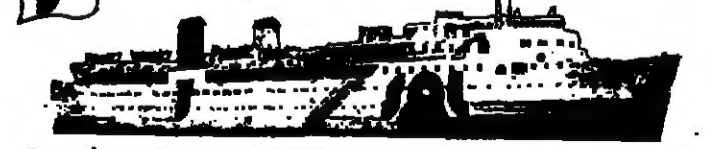
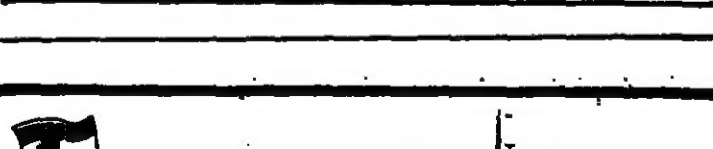


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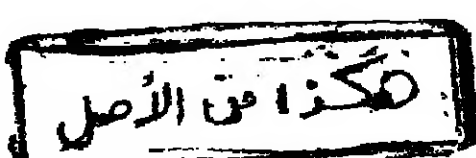
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To brighten not-at-all heartening picture

Jordan's energy policy planners urge radical measures

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

Jordan is caught in an increasingly gloomy energy picture that could have potentially catastrophic consequences if it remains unchecked. The picture is not at all heartening.

In the past five years, Jordan has consumed 5.5 million tons of crude oil, which at a cost of \$81 million. Consumption was 1.55 million tons of oil that cost \$230 million this year, national oil consumption is projected at 6.5 million tons, at an estimated cost of \$370 million at the 1980 price of \$26.45 per barrel. The price of oil is projected at nearly \$400 million at a price of \$28.45 per barrel. Saudi Arabia increases its oil price again later this year, in the decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last year, the minimum price of oil was \$22 a barrel, Jordan's oil bill could go over \$500 million.

In the next five years, national oil demand will continue to rise as several large industries enter service (such as the new Rashidiya plant and the expanded cement factory, and phosphate mines). Tens of thousands of small-scale industries, established with government-subsidized machinery to reduce the need for labour.

Combine with changing technology — centrally heated cars, more automobiles and higher per person consumption — to drive up oil imports at a sharp rate almost as sharp as the annual increase in oil of 22 per cent during the last five years. During the last five years, annual oil consumption increased at the slower rate of 10 per cent — a high figure indeed, but one that must be seen as realistic given the rate targets in Jordan's development strategy. Oil consumption at the more modest rate of 10 per cent a year, Jordan will need over three million tons of oil by 1985, costing about \$400 million a year at an average price of \$40 a barrel. If consumption is slightly higher and the price of oil increases at the

Increased domestic consumption of energy has combined with steadily rising world oil prices during the past five years to force a major assessment of how Jordan uses and pays for its energy.

objectives which it can meet by having the resources of a permanent organisation, staff and budget.

Two World Bank missions have been to Jordan to help the government formulate a national energy plan, but Mr. Nsour is pessimistic that any easy solutions will be found.

"The main elements of a national energy policy have been clear and obvious for a long time," he said. These include accelerating oil exploration in the country (now being done by the Natural Resources Authority), speeding up plans to exploit available oil shale deposits and making use of alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

"In the long run, beyond the 1990s, we must also look into the option of using nuclear power,

though this can only be done on a regional basis by which Jordan operates nuclear power plants jointly with such other Arab states as Syria, Iraq or Saudi Arabia," he adds.

The best policy would be conservation of energy, but the most effective tool to conserve energy — higher prices — is difficult to use because prices in Jordan are already at a high level, after the retail price increases of this year. Therefore Jordan must make more efficient use of the energy it is already consuming, by using more efficient machinery and equipment and choosing building materials that conserve energy.

The same note is struck by Mr. Sa'ad Tal, general manager of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company Ltd., owners of the country's sole oil refinery. He told the Jordan Times that Jordan has to make better use of the fuels it consumes, particularly in the transport sector. This sector has been increasing its fuel consumption at the highest rate of any sector of the economy, and last year accounted for a full 50 per cent of oil consumption in Jordan. In comparison, heating used eight per cent of Jordan's imported oil, electricity generation used 14 per cent, industry used 15 per cent and domestic users took seven per cent.

In the transport sector, cars accounted for 34 per cent of oil consumption, freight (trucks) used 40 per cent, aircraft used 23 per cent and railways used 3 per cent. The sharp increase in private car use should be curtailed, Mr. Tal suggests, by a large increase in the national bus network. There are only 500 buses in the entire country today, while there is room for at least another 1,000 buses, whose introduction into the transport system could offer travellers an alternative to driving their own cars. Similar fuel savings could be made by increasing the efficiency of cargo trucks by making small modifications to their suspension systems to allow them to carry larger loads.

If the public transport system were better organised and more extensive, Mr. Tal says, the price of gasoline could be increased to curtail consumption and reduce private car use.

The whole pricing structure of energy in Jordan remains without a clear, fixed policy. Until 1975, the government paid no subsidy on energy costs, passing on the full cost of gasoline, kerosene and heating oil to the consumer. By 1976, as OPEC prices were increasing rapidly, the government had to step in and pay a JD 3 million subsidy to keep retail prices from rising too sharply. In 1977, the subsidy was still only JD 4 million, but it shot up in 1978 to JD 20 million and again to JD 27 million last year, reflecting the dilemma of a government which found itself having to increase its subsidy on fuels every time OPEC raised the price of oil. Last year, Mr. Tal says, Jordan started the year by buying oil from Saudi Arabia at \$15 per barrel. In June, the price was \$18.50 a barrel, and in November it rose to \$24 a barrel. By January of this year, it had reached \$26.45 a barrel, and the April OPEC increase forced Jordan to pay \$28.45 a barrel for all the oil it buys from Saudi Arabia which is pumped to the Zarqa refinery via the 1,213-km-long Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline).

In the sixties and early 70s, transit fees from Saudi Arabian oil passing through Jordanian territory via Tapline to Syria and Lebanon helped to offset Jordan's oil import bill, but the reduction in Tapline deliveries to Syria and Lebanon from 500,000 barrels a day to 65,000 barrels a day today has sent Jordan's transit fees plummeting, from a high of \$13 million a year to \$3.2 million last year.

The government will have to pay over JD 30 million this year to subsidise retail energy sales to consumers, though the level of subsidies is as much a political as an economic question, Mr. Nsour says. The government can absorb a small oil price increase, but a sharp rise of more than one or two dollars a barrel must be passed on in part to consumers.

Mr. Tal adds that the aim is to reach a point where subsidies can be phased out altogether except for oil products that are essential for development, such as fuel oil, needed by industries and for electricity generation.

It is also important to subsidise fuels required by fixed-income and low-income people, such as the kerosene used to heat homes, Mr. Tal notes. Therefore the retail price of gasoline for cars has increased most sharply recently, while kerosene and fuel oil prices

have risen relatively less. It is still too early to see what effect the price increases will have on consumption, Mr. Tal says, though he adds that it was imperative that retail prices in Jordan rose sharply during the past two years to reach close to the international level, from where any new price increases can be phased in gradually in line with future OPEC price increases.

The only thing that Jordan can do in the long run, Mr. Tal says, is to institute a crash programme of exploiting alternative energy sources. He notes that there are only about 10,000 home solar water heaters in use in the country today, while there should be several hundred thousand of them, both to heat water and heat homes. Instead of paying JD 30 million a year to subsidise the price of imported oil, why doesn't the government spend this JD 30 million to subsidise a solar heating industry in Jordan, Mr. Tal asks. The government could make it mandatory for all new buildings to install solar heaters, which would be a prerequisite to getting a construction license.

He also thinks the oil exploration programme in Jordan is moving along too slowly, given that all indications point to the probability of oil being available somewhere in the country.

Other energy sources, such as hydroelectric power from the King Talal and Maqarin dams, wind power, geothermal energy



Sa'ad Tal

and the like, have limited potential. Only exploiting known reserves of shale-bearing rocks and tar sands could be envisioned on a large scale. But this is at least ten years away, and could only meet a modest part of Jordan's total power requirements, given the high population growth rate and the trend towards an industrialising economy and a more energy-consuming lifestyle of



Ali Nsour

individual homes full of electrical appliances.

One of the problems Jordan faces in trying to formulate a coherent long-term national energy policy is that there is no constant pattern of energy use increases. The country experiences sudden surges in power requirements. There was one such increase in 1975-77, as Jordan's indigenous economic development coincided with an influx of people from war-torn Lebanon. Another sharp increase in electricity demand will take place as the potash and chemical fertiliser plants come into service in the coming two years. Any regional political developments could result suddenly in an influx of people into the country, followed by a new burst in energy use. All these factors, Mr. Tal says, make it extremely difficult to plan ahead and anticipate national energy requirements.

Trying to offset the cost of oil imports by increasing Jordanian exports is one strategy that is discussed, but it seems to be a losing battle in view of existing trade patterns. Last year, Jordan exported goods worth JD 82.5 million, and imported goods worth JD 589.5 million, leaving a trade deficit of JD 507 million. Even with the estimated additional exports of potash, chemical fertiliser, phosphates and fresh vegetables from the Jordan Valley in the next five years, Jordan's total exports are unlikely to rise above JD 300 million in the 1980s, by which time oil imports alone would require that much money, let alone imports of consumer items, capital goods and food.

"The cost of importing oil will always be a burden to Jordan unless radical policies are implemented soon," says Mr. Tal, who adds dolefully, "If we look around the world and are honest with ourselves, we'd have to classify states according to those that are living, barely living or slowly dying."

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will continue rather hot, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Aqaba	26	41
Deserts	23	42
Jordan Valley	25	40

	Overnight		Daytime		
	Low	High	Low	High	
Amman	22	34	34	40	

The high temperature in Amman on Tuesday was 34, while that in Aqaba was 40.

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People ...in the news

JORDAN IS soon to receive a welcome visit from a native daughter who has moved to Britain — and has definitely done well there.

Madiha Madfa'i of the British Broadcasting Corporation's Arabic Service is to visit Jordan, Syria and Egypt on a working visit beginning on July 19.

Madiha, who has been with the Arabic Service for many years, specialises in news and current affairs. She is planning to conduct a series of interviews with Arab officials during her tour. Madiha is the daughter of the late Rashid Madfa'i, who was interior minister and minister of defence in Jordan for many years. She is married to fellow broadcaster, Mr. Nadim Nasser, who comes from Birzeit in the occupied West Bank. Now that her two children are growing up, Madiha — who has a degree in journalism from the American University in Cairo — is taking a post-graduate course in international affairs at the University of London.

Madiha Madfa'i's tour begins in Egypt on July 19.



Dr. Subhi Al Qasem



Madiha Madfa'i

She will be in Syria from July 23-31 and in Jordan from August 1-9.

THE DEAN of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, Dr. Subhi Al Qasem, has been attending at Cambridge University a five-day conference on water resources and rural development.

The conference was organised by the natural resources advisers group of the Overseas Development Administration, at Magdalen College, from July 6-11.

Delegates from a number of countries discussed the use of water for food and drinking, and for sewage disposal. Other issues studied included the value of different kinds of irrigation systems for food crops, the complexities of fish farming, regulations for the control of effluents and preserving the environment.

British consultants were on hand on the final day of the conference to discuss their work overseas and the expertise they can offer.

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AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	1,260	8,950	8,900	8,950
Cement Factories	JD 10,000	265	17,650	17,550	17,550
Invest Bank	JD 1,000	105	2,160	2,160	2,160
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	1,100	1,510	1,510	1,510
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	720	3,750	3,750	3,750
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	1,033	1,440	1,440	1,440
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	501	1,850	1,850	1,850
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	270	1,220	1,210	1,220
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	2,445	3,110	3,100	3,100
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 5,000	310	5,440	5,440	5,440
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	200	2,070	2,070	2,070
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	700	1,430	1,430	1,430
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	100	1,310	1,310	1,310
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 5,000	50	10,000	10,000	10,000
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	9,882	1,830	1,830	1,830
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	2,800	0,930	0,920	0,920
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	300	0,940	0,940	0,940
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	760	0,700	0,700	0,700
Bank for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	4,700	2,100	2,080	2,080

Traded on Tuesday, July 15, 1980:

Number of shares traded: 27,501

Investment Development Bonds

Company	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
Investment Development Bonds	JD 10,000	280	2,800	10,000	10,000

Economic News Briefs

Kuwait rejects oil as political tool

KUWAIT, July 15 (R) — Kuwait will not use its oil as a weapon in the Arabs' fight against Israel because the consequences are impossible to predict, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad said in an interview published yesterday.

Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait would be prepared to withdraw its massive deposits of money in the West as a means of political pressure if they could be invested securely elsewhere.

The minister told the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al Qabas* he did not believe in using the oil weapon "because it is a two-edged weapon and no one can predict what the consequences might be." He added that Kuwait was "ready to withdraw deposits from around the world, but I just need a country which would give guarantees for our deposits."

Kuwait's surplus oil revenues, estimated as likely to total more than \$60 billion by the end of this year, are mostly invested in the United States and other Western industrialised nations.

Sheikh Sabah said in an interview, reported by the state-run Kuwait News Agency, that alternative investment opportunities were limited.

"We cannot find any Arab project ready for implementation because there is no planning... for instance we have a development fund of more than one billion dollars but this has not been paid out because there is no planning, no projects, either Arab, African, or Islamic," he said.

Sheikh Sabah said Arab oil-producing countries were unlikely to sell crude oil to other Arab states at special low prices. He said oil prices were decided by the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but added that the oil producers would help other Arab states "through various ways and channels".

Portugal renews oil exploration scheme

LISBON, July 15 (R) — The World Bank is to provide finance for a seismic survey of the Portuguese coast in the search for off-shore oilfields, World Bank Vice-President Roger Chaufoeur said yesterday.

World Bank officials said earlier efforts to find oil off the Portuguese coast had been abandoned because the low cost of crude at the time of the previous exploration did not justify heavy investment.

Now that the cost of oil had risen steeply the Portuguese state oil company Petrolgal had resumed offshore surveys, and had found several areas north of Lisbon which might justify the drilling of test wells, the officials added. No oil was found in earlier exploration off the coast of Portugal.

The officials said the bank, which has put up \$524 million for various projects in Portugal since 1976, would also finance efforts to save oil by reducing refinery losses.

Kuwaiti bank syndicates \$60m loan to Brazil

KUWAIT, July 15 (R) — Brazilian Trade and Industry Minister Joseo Camillo De Oliveira Penna left Kuwait last night after a three-day visit during which he signed a \$60 million bank loan agreement.

The Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company, a Kuwaiti merchant bank, arranged the eight-year

syndicated loan for the Brazilian government development bank (Banco Nacional Do Desenvolvimento Economico), a Brazilian embassy spokesman said.

Eight Arab or Arab-affiliated banks provided the loan, which will be used for development projects in Brazil, the spokesman said.

During his stay, Mr. De Oliveira Penna also met Kuwaiti business leaders and discussed with Kuwaiti Commerce and Industry Minister Abdul Wahab Yousef Al Nafisi ways of promoting trade relations between the two countries.

OPEC to increase Fund to \$20b

MANILA, Philippines, July 15 (AP) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has decided to increase the OPEC Fund from \$4 billion to \$20 billion for the next four years to assist developing countries, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana' Said Al Otaibah said yesterday.

The minister arrived Saturday on a four-day official visit to the Philippines. He also announced his country will urge OPEC heads of government scheduled to meet in Baghdad in November "to increase the Fund's capital, to reach maybe \$100 billion or more in the coming years." He did not give further details.

The U.A.E., he said, feels it is the duty of OPEC to come to the rescue of developing countries badly affected by the rocketing cost of oil, and he challenged developed countries to put up a similar fund to help poor countries meet the rising cost of industrial goods and technology from the West.

Saudia to maintain oil production level

BEIRUT, July 15 (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal has said his country will maintain its present level of oil production until the end of the year.

In the first official Saudi statement on production levels from June, Prince Saud was quoted by the Lebanese newspaper *An Nahar* as saying Saudi Arabia's production policy would not change. "It was decided previously that the current production level would continue until the end of this year," he said.

Saudi Arabia had said earlier that the current rate of production of 9.5 million barrels a day was subject to a review every three months. No new production levels have yet been announced for the three months from July to September.

Prince Saud opposed giving some Arab states preferential oil prices. He said that would only upset the price structures of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. "Saudi Arabia has presented proposals for financial support for those countries and I believe that this is the sound way," he added.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	290.50/292.50	French franc	71.80/72.20
U.K. sterling	690.20/694.20	Dutch guilder	152.20/153.10
West German mark	166.50/167.50	Swedish crown	70.60/71.00
Swiss franc	180.90/182.00	Belgian franc	103.90/104.50
Italian lire		Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	35.00/35.20	(for every 100)	133.00/133.80

Capital investments urged for S. Africa's surplus

JOHANNESBURG, July 15 (R) — South Africa, enjoying sturdy economic growth despite social unrest, is being urged by some of its bankers and economists to use its surplus money to sharply increase imports.

Experts interviewed here said the country, whose wealth has been boosted by gold, should especially increase imports of equipment to build up industrial strength for the future.

The experts predict that South Africa's economy will show a year growth of six per cent this year. This compares with 3.5 per cent 10 years ago. It contrasts sharply with gloomy forecasts for the growth of most industrial Western nations.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is at present predicting an average growth rate of only around one per cent for 1980, compared with three per cent last year, for its 24 industrial member-countries.

South Africa is the world's biggest gold producer and the high prices fetched for the metal in recent years have helped push the

economy into its strong growth pattern. The gold price has averaged \$593 an ounce so far this year compared with \$307 last year.

This has more than cushioned oil imports, while coal, platinum and other strategic minerals mined here have all shown higher rates of export.

Until recent months the upswing was confined largely to the gold and coal mining industries, but now the manufacturing and private sectors have begun to move ahead strongly.

South Africa, however, is suffering from inflation problems like most other nations, and economists here say this will be the biggest headache for the authorities over the next six to 12 months.

South Africa's present rate of inflation at 14.1 per cent on an annual basis is just below the 14.5 per cent average inflation rate of its major trading partners, according to official estimates.

Key indicators of economic activity such as consumption, investments, production, employment and imports are all rising strongly.

Midland to buy 51% Crocker National Corp.

LONDON, July 15 (R) — Britain's Midland Bank today announced it had reached preliminary agreement to buy 51 per cent of the Crocker National Corporation, holding company for the United States' 14th largest bank.

The Midland, Britain's third largest bank, plans to acquire a controlling interest in Crocker for about \$820 million in cash; a spokesman said. Midland would tender for existing shares as well as injecting new capital.

Earlier today, Crocker Chairman Thomas R. Wilcox told Reuters from his San Francisco home that the agreement was the result of Crocker's need for additional capital to expand as well as the Midland's well-known aspiration to invest in a North American financial enterprise.

He emphasised the preliminary nature of the agreement. Approval by the directors and shareholders of both companies and by U.S. authorities could take a year or more.

Midland has assets exceeding \$46 billion while those of Crocker, described by Mr. Wilcox as the most profitable bank in California,

were \$16.1 billion. A Midland spokesman said the British bank is a million shares of Crocker stock and to buy 51 per cent of the bank.

Midland had acquired a 51 per cent stake in the bank in 1977, which would have given it a controlling interest in the bank.

Midland has been a major mover in the States for some years, having acquired a 51 per cent stake in the Standard Bank and a 51 per cent stake in the First National Bank of New York.

Its negotiations with Crocker are part of a long-term plan to build a major financial empire in the United States, a year ago.

Britain's three main commercial banks, Barclays, Lloyds and the National Westminster Bank, have North American subsidiaries. Lloyds has a subsidiary in the United States, while Barclays and National Westminster have subsidiaries in the United States.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, July 15 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.3715/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1528/31	Canadian dollar	
	1.7470/80	West German marks	
	1.9098/9108	Dutch guilders	
	1.6085/6100	Swiss francs	
	27.95/97	Belgian francs	
	4.0585/0600	French francs	
	831.50/832.00	Italian lire	
	219.25/40	Japanese yen	
	4.1280/90	Swedish crowns	
	4.8170/90	Norwegian crowns	
	5.4270/85	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	620.00/622.00	U.S. dollars	

LONDON STOCK MARK

LONDON, July 15 (R) — Stock prices closed firm following demand in a thin market, dealers said. At 1500 the FT index up 7.5 at 497.2.

The feature in equities was the fall in Midland Bank from 370p on news it is proposing to acquire a controlling interest in Crocker National Corp of Los Angeles. Government rose half a point or more helped by treasury claims that supply is under control, dealers added.

Gold shares declined with the bullion price while U.S. Canadian shares were generally higher.

The better than expected June trade figures led to an end of earlier gains in after hours dealings, dealers said. Oils were active, with rises ranging to 14p while ICI industrials higher adding 8p. Rank Organisation touched a 166p on further consideration of its interim results announced yesterday but rallied to close only 4p off at 174.

In mixed banks, Midland steadied to close 19p down.

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Released U.S. hostage has multiple sclerosis

WIESBADEN, West Germany, July 15 (R) -- Released U.S. Tehran embassy hostage Mr. Richard Queen has multiple sclerosis, his American doctors told a press conference here today.

Mr. Queen, released on the orders of Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last week after 281 days in the hands of militants, developed the symptoms during his captivity in Tehran, the doctors said in a statement.

Dr. Jerome Michael Korcak, a senior U.S. State Department physician, told reporters Mr. Queen's symptoms over the last eight months included numbness, abnormal sensations in his upper body, nausea, vomiting and imbalance.

Dr. Korcak said multiple sclerosis was a disease of unknown cause and had widely varying effects on patients. In some cases it was only a mild and transient illness, he said.

Mr. Queen was flown to Zurich last Friday after doctors who examined him in Tehran urged Ayatollah Khomeini to let him free for humanitarian reasons. He

entered the U.S. air force hospital in Wiesbaden for tests on Sunday. The statement said Mr. Queen, 28, would be returning to the United States in the next few days and would resume his duties as a foreign service officer as soon as his health permitted.

Asked whether the disease, which affects the muscular and nervous system, could have been triggered by the conditions under which Mr. Queen was held, Dr. Korcak replied: "We have no indication of that."

He said Mr. Queen first developed the symptoms of multiple sclerosis last December, about one month after militant students overran the U.S. embassy and took its personnel hostage to demand the return of the deposed Shah.

Dr. Korcak said it was well known that stress played a part in the clinical development of multiple sclerosis but added:

"Whether the conditions in Iran did that, it has been impossible to prove."

"Mr. Queen's physicians have every hope that he will be among that group of patients who have mild and transient manifestations of the illness," the physician added.

Red Cross officials who visited the 50 hostages inside the occupied American mission in Tehran in early April said one or two captives were depressed but made no mention of the more serious symptoms outlined today.

Mr. Queen was U.S. vice-consul at the Tehran embassy, a post which he had held for only six months before the mission was occupied.

Iran has said his release was an exceptional measure and has ruled out any imminent release for the 49 other embassy hostages or the three U.S. diplomats held at the Iranian foreign ministry.

Billy Carter a Libyan 'agent'

WASHINGTON, July 15 (Agencies) -- After receiving almost a quarter of a million dollars from Libya, Mr. Billy Carter, brother of the president, is officially a foreign agent for that country.

By signing a consent order agreeing to register Monday, President Carter's outspoken younger brother resolved a civil suit by the U.S. Justice Department and avoided any legal penalties or fines.

While denying any wrongdoing, he revealed that he has received \$220,000 dollars from Libya as partial payment on a \$500,000 loan he said he requested in return for his services during the past two years. He had also received some personal gifts.

The registration statement said Mr. Billy Carter isn't currently involved in any activities on behalf of Libya and has none under consideration.

In a complaint filed in federal court, the government said Mr. Billy Carter "undertook a prop-

aganda campaign" for Libya in this country and acted in a variety of ways "to promote Libyan foreign policy objectives."

The younger Carter was unavailable for comment yesterday, and White House officials said President Carter would have no comment.

At the Republican national convention in Detroit, U.S. Senator William Roth called the revelations "absolutely outrageous." He said he will seek a full investigation by the Senate government affairs committee to determine if "as an undisclosed agent for the Libyan government, Mr. Billy Carter has had improper influence on government policy."

Mr. Billy Carter's links with Libya have aroused controversy since he visited Tripoli in 1978 and later escorted visiting Libyan officials around Atlanta, Georgia.

He said at the time his aim was to increase trade between the United States and the government of Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

He denied press reports that there were plans to set up a corporation funneling Libyan investment funds into the U.S.

The foreign agents registration act requires anyone accepting money from a foreign government or business to register as an agent and disclose activities in the U.S. on behalf of that government or business.

Among the personal gifts were gold bracelets valued at \$400, a saddle estimated to cost more than \$2,000, a ceremonial sword, clothing, and travel expenses amounting to nearly \$14,000.

In addition to questions in the past about the propriety of his relationship with Libya, Mr. Billy Carter stirred criticism with remarks interpreted by some Americans as anti-Semitic.

He had suggested that relations between the United States and Libya would be better but for the influence of Jews in the American press.

At another time, when his activities were criticised by some Jewish leaders, he said he would continue to support the Arab cause despite "Zionist" pressure against him.

NATO welcomes Soviet proposals on arms...

BRUSSELS, July 15 (R) -- The North Atlantic alliance today considers the Soviet proposal to negotiate limits for European-based nuclear missiles, taking note of the clarifications given by Moscow to the United States.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher is briefing the NATO council on his way back from Bonn where he held intensive consultations with the West German government yesterday, NATO sources said.

NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns gave a cautious welcome to the Soviet proposal after an alliance meeting earlier this month. At that time Mr. Guenther Van Well, state secretary in the West German foreign ministry, briefed the NATO allies on the results of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's trip to Moscow.

The main question remains what kind of U.S. European-based weapons the Soviet Union wants to include in the negotiations. They said the Soviet Union seems to be pursuing two aims -- to avoid the deployment in Western Europe of the 572 Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles decided on by NATO last December, and to bring into the talks the so-called forward based systems (FBS).

These include a number of fighter bombers, tactical planes and submarines assigned to NATO and capable of reaching the Soviet Union from bases and locations in or around Europe.

The Soviet Union is understood to be proposing two alternative negotiations, one limited to existing medium-range missiles and one having a wider scope within the framework of the next round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT-III), the NATO sources said.

While the United States still seeks additional clarifications from Moscow before agreeing to the talks, it is up to NATO to decide how the talks can best be prepared.

... Moscow says no to talks unless all weapons included

MOSCOW, July 15 (R) -- The Soviet Union declared today it was maintaining its struggle to overturn the decision by NATO to deploy 572 new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

The Kremlin position was set out in an explanation by the Communist Party newspaper Pravda of Moscow's new proposals for talks on limiting nuclear arsenals in and around Europe.

The proposals, made to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt when he visited Moscow earlier this month, had been misunderstood by some people in the West, Pravda said. These unidentified people were saying that Moscow was ready to negotiate on the West's terms without prior suspension of the western alliance's December missile decision.

"Nothing can be further from the truth than such assertions," Pravda said. It accused the U.S. of trying to achieve military superiority in Europe, and said there was a "principled difference" between the latest Soviet proposal and the present western position.

It was a waste of effort to say that the Soviet Union had accepted what Pravda called the West's aim of giving NATO and the U.S. unilateral advantages over Moscow in nuclear arms, it added.

Until Mr. Schmidt's visit, the Soviet Union had said it would not talk on limiting nuclear missiles until NATO suspended its plan to deploy 572 Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in western Europe from 1983.

NATO chiefs say the move was necessary to counter the Soviet SS-20 missile, one of which they say is being installed every day. But Moscow commentators maintain the western move upsets the rough balance of forces in the continent.

Today's authoritative editorial repeated the Soviet position that the only way to negotiate the reduction of nuclear arms on the continent was to include Washington's so-called forward based systems (FBS). These include nuclear-equipped aircraft in Europe and the Mediterranean, and submarines lying off Europe.

Japan to woo the USSR after Suzuki is made PM

TOKYO, July 15 (R) -- The new Japanese government led by Zenko Suzuki is expected to try to improve relations with the Soviet Union after nearly two years of strain, foreign ministry sources said today.

The sources said the process could begin on Friday, the day after Mr. Suzuki is officially designated prime minister, with the first visit to Tokyo by a Moscow official since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr. Suzuki, 69, was today appointed president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), clearing his way to become prime minister.

Relations between Tokyo and Moscow have been at a low ebb since the Soviet militarisation late in 1978 of the Kurile islands claimed by Japan.

The ministry sources said resumption of a dialogue with Moscow was important from the viewpoint of Japanese security, but they added that the government would maintain its stand against the Afghanistan intervention.

Mr. Suzuki told reporters last week he would develop the policies of his predecessor, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira.

Mr. Ohira, who died of a heart attack on June 12, based his foreign policy on close relations with the United States while endeavouring to improve already friendly ties with China.

Mr. Suzuki did not discuss the Soviet Union. But ministry sources said Japanese officials had been encouraged by the recent meetings between Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The Soviet Union began to militarise three northern Pacific, Kurile islands, one of them within sight of the Japanese mainland, at about the time Japan signed a peace and friendship treaty with China.

Moscow has said consistently that it has no outstanding territorial problems with Tokyo. But Japan has been adamant in not opening negotiations with the Soviet Union on a World War Two peace treaty until moves begin to return the islands, occupied since 1945.

Mr. Suzuki, after being designated Japan's prime minister on Thursday, will appoint a cabinet intended to heal rifts in the LDP.

party sources said today. The sources said he will offer senior cabinet or party posts to Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone and Mr. Toshio Komoto, two former ministers who quit the race for the top job on Friday to help unite the party after almost a decade of factional squabbling.

Mr. Suzuki, who has little foreign and economic affairs experience, is also expected to include in his first cabinet followers of faction chiefs such as former prime ministers Mr. Takeo Miki and Mr. Kakuei Tanaka.

After Mr. Nakasone, Komoto bowed out of the race, it became evident that he would be named LDP ensuring his official appointment as prime minister.

The party sources said Nakasone, a former minister, and Mr. Komoto, former trade minister, were to be offered either the trade or finance portfolios.

Further unrest flares as S. African student start returning to class

JOHANNESBURG, July 15 (R) -- Thousands of black construction workers were sent home today from South Africa's new Sasol oil-from-coal plant at Secunda because of renewed unrest, a company spokesman said.

Police were called to the plant in eastern Transvaal yesterday when a white employee died and several vehicles were set ablaze.

Workers told newsmen the latest trouble flared when they were restricted to their living camps after nightfall.

Police said the white Sasol employee apparently died of head injuries when his vehicle overturned after being stoned by rioters. A Sasol statement said last night the man was burned to death when his vehicle was set alight by black workers, but police said they did not suspect he had been maliciously killed.

The company spokesman said the original unrest stemmed from unfounded rumours that a black employee had been shot dead by soldiers.

After weeks of unrest over racial inequalities in South Africa's educational system, thousands of coloured (mixed race) students returned to classes at the start of a new term today.

Reports from western Cape Province, where the class boycott began in mid-April, indicated that attendances were high but the situation was confused elsewhere.

In some other urban areas, black students, whose new term began last week, were still boycotting schools.

Education authorities sent out letters to parents yesterday saying problems in education would be

eliminated and appealed calm.

The Committee of Spearheaded the boycott Town, told pupils to school and said a decision boycott would be taken the reaction of the state's den's demands.

Demonstrations included in disorganised reinstatement of who were suspended of boycott, the provision of supplies of books and school buildings.

Violence reached a mid-June when 32 people officially said to have been

India to launch rocket

NEW DELHI, July 15 India will fire a rocket today to put a (40-kilo) satellite into the earth's was announced today.

The 17-tonne satellite vehicle (SLV) will be fired from a launch pad off the coast.

A similar four-stage rocket launched in August last year plunged into the Bay of after just over five minutes.

A successful test of India's intermediate range missile (IRBM) capable only five other countries present.

The country's first satellites, mainly to collect data, were put into the Soviet rockets fired from a launching pad.

Across this vast continent, a disaster caused by nature and compounded by human waste and conflict has taken shape. Africa's goal of feeding itself seems impossibly remote.

Africa is starving

By Andrew Torchia

NAIROBI, Kenya, July 15 -- Some 440 million Africans, a tenth of the world's people, have measurably less to eat now than they had 10 years ago. Tens of thousands are starving to death.

Twenty-one African countries, nearly half the continent, are gripped by severe food shortages, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says. Ten countries from Ethiopia to Mozambique are particularly hard hit.

Mr. Maurice Williams, executive director of the U.N. World Food Council, predicts "a period of permanent food crisis." Some experts believe the crisis will be deeper than the 1972-14 drought, when 300,000 or more died in Ethiopia and the Sahel Belt south of the Sahara.

U.N. planners estimate that apart from emergency aid, the equivalent of more than \$64 billion in aid is needed if Africa is to approach food self-sufficiency by 1990.

Equally important is the will of African governments to make the difficult decisions required to turn the situation around.

"I'm scared about what may happen," said an American analyst after a tour of eastern Africa. "Some governments have had their priorities all wrong. They'll have to make tough choices to recover the food balance. In many countries, if the decisions are made, governments may fall."

Africans don't need governments to tell them they're in trouble.

Scenes from a hungry continent

— In Nairobi, thousands stand in line as long as 12 hours to buy four kilos of maize meal, enough to feed an average family for one day. Fights are common.

— Near the Lake Victoria port of Mwanza, Tanzania, some families eat every other day. Villagers buy food with the money they saved to build a school.

— In the Karamoja region of Uganda, hungry men snatch meat from children and old people.

The strong survive but tens of thousands die, and the habits of civilisation vanish.

— In Zambia, private dairymen slaughter cows because of low, government-controlled milk prices, while state-run dairies wallow in inefficiency. A French agronomist reported one state dairy with 25 workers tending 51 cows.

— In Somalia, the world's worst refugee problem depletes the meagre resources of one of the world's poorest countries. Some 1.5 million refugees from a guerrilla war in Ethiopia, most of them women and children, exist on daily food rations of one pound or less. Pregnant and exhausted women stagger into relief camps, give birth and die. Disease claims hundreds.

The underlying cause of the crisis is rain -- lack of rain, too much rain or rain at the wrong time. There are other afflictions, such as persistent locust swarms and infestations of caterpillars, but a main cause of famine many observers say, is man himself.

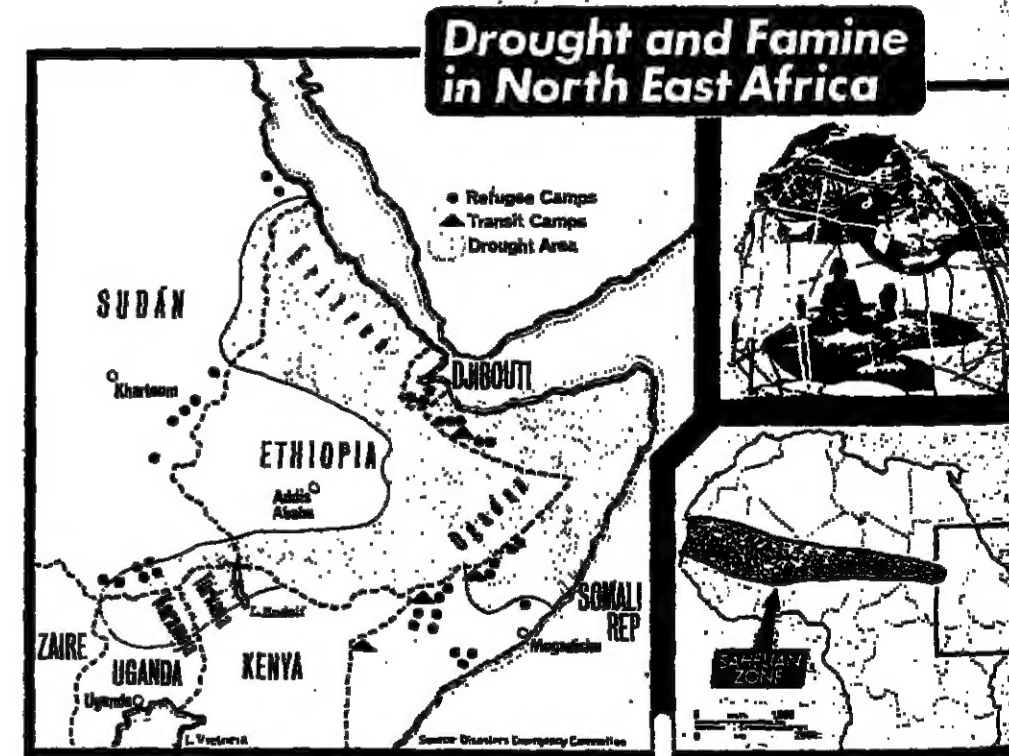
"Eastern Africa would have no problem feeding itself and even exporting some if everyone got his act together. But will they?" asked the American analyst, who asked not to be identified by name or organisation.

With only one per cent of its land arable, and only half of that given to food crops, Africa can ill afford its human failings -- war, population explosions, poor farming and storage methods, overgrazing, mismanagement and corruption.

War has been particularly disruptive. Besides the 1.5 million who fled Ethiopia to Somalia, some 3.5 million are affected by guerrilla war in Eritrea, Tigre and the Ogaden desert, say officials.

Uganda's famine was deepened by the chaos in Karamoja following the war that overthrew Idi Amin.

Civil war in Chad has produced 200,000



refugees. In Angola, it helped change that country from an exporter of 10 per cent of its grain crop to an importer of 21 per cent of its grain consumption.

Years of war have cut Zimbabwe's maize fields by more than a third. When drought struck two years ago, one of Africa's most efficient food exporters became an importer.

Africa's population is expected to be almost 600 million by 1990. The FAO estimates population is growing at 3 per cent a year, food production at less than 2 per cent.



In Karamoja, Uganda the situation is catastrophic. With drought and warfare preventing agricultural activities, welfare organisations expect several tens of thousands to die of hunger in the next few months.

African grain yields per unit of land lowest in the world. Much farmland is overgrazed or eroded beyond use. Poor land use and changing rainfall patterns have spread 96 kilometres south since 1970. "These countries inherited complex government machinery from colonial powers," an American analyst said. "The governments, stored crops, arranged transport, cash and loans, made seed and fertilizer available technical help and stabilised the market. Over the years, governments have gone to take a major effort to overhaul and restore efficiency."

The food crisis is self-perpetuating. The of food imports more than doubled during 1970s, but inflation boosted import costs 400 per cent, draining currency reserves might have been used to expand farm production.

Mr. Haven North of the U.S. Agency for International Development told the House of Representatives sub-committee on Africa that America planned to ship one million food to Africa starting from Oct. 1. This barely cover the expected shortage in Africa alone.

The \$100 million in food aid the United provided this year is about three-quarters amount the United Nations wants in Ethiopia.

Said FAO Director-General Edouard in Rome recently: "We are on the verge of a human disaster in many communities of unprecedented character."

"I'm increasingly concerned about the nature and the response of the international community. The response, while generous, is uneven and unreliable. The explosion of emergencies, the overall national response is far below the needs."

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